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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/652,628	08/28/2003	Joanne E. Shipe		1832

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EXAMINER

GILMAN, ALEXANDER

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/652,628	Applicant(s) SHIPE ET AL. CK	
	Examiner Alexander D Gilman	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 20-29 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 11-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08282003</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Webster

With regard to claim 1, Webster (US 4,872,853) discloses an electrical connector for engaging with an electronic card, comprising:

an elongate dielectric housing (40, 46) defining a slot in a mating face along a first direction',

a plurality of contacts (not shown) retained in the housing and comprising contact portions extending into the slot for engaging with the electronic card (54); and

a retention mechanism (10) located at one end of the housing, the retention mechanism comprising at least one curved resilient arm (24, 26, 28) abutting against a top face of the housing (against 48 in fig. 6) and a pair of legs (32) spaced from each other to define a channel therebetween adapted for receiving a latching projection of the electronic card, the at least one resilient arm flattening (Fig. 5) to move the legs outwardly (Fig. 3).

With regard to claim 2, Webster discloses the legs are outwardly moveable by flattening the at least one resilient arm along a second direction (Fig. 5) perpendicular to the first direction .

With regard to claim 3, Webster discloses an end wall (a part of 48 supporting the 32, 36) having an oblique inner face for preventing the legs from overly moving.

Art Unit: 2833

With regard to claim 11, Webster discloses the housing is a two-piece configuration and comprises a main housing (40) in which the contacts are retained and an accessory housing (44) at one end of the main housing, the retention mechanism being received in the accessory housing.

2. Claims 12- 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tondreault .

With regard to claims 12, 13, Tondreault (US 5,420,523) discloses (Fig. 9) a retention mechanism adapted for being mounted to an electrical connector for securing an electronic card in the colmector, comprising;

a main body;

a pair of spaced legs (32 in combination with 42) extending upwardly from one end of the main body to define a charnel therebetween; and

a pair of resilient arms (48, 50) extending in a second direction substantially pependicular to the first direction.

.With regard to claims 14, 15, Tondreault discloses the resilient arms comprising a pair of upwardly extending abutments (52, 54) at free ends thereof and .
a connecting portion interconnecting the legs and the resilient arms.

With regard to claims 16-18 Tondreault discloses a pair of mating arms (which surround 137) extending- upwardly from an opposite end of the main body and adapted for contacting with a mating edge of the electronic card.

With regard to claim 19, Tondreault discloses a pair of tails (the portions surrounding and below 45) downwardly extending from the second vertical portion.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-29 have been allowed.

Claims 4-10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2833

No prior art has been found to anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed subject matter. Specifically, none of the prior art of record discloses the combination of the limitations presented including the communication of the mating arms of the retention mechanism and the pairs of the supports extending from the housing (claims 4-10); the deflection of the arms causing deflection of the legs having the latch in the channel between them (claims 20-25); the deflection of the arm causing the deflection of the second connection portion in the direction substantially perpendicular to the first direction (claims 26-28); the resilient mechanism where the recoverable movement of the second section in the second direction causing the recoverable movement of the first section in the first direction being perpendicular to the second direction (claim 29).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/652,628

Page 5

Art Unit: 2833

03/01/2004

Alex Gilman

**ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**